

**Research Committee Minutes: 23 Aug 2002**  
1:30-3:00PM - 309 PIO

Members present: Clements, Damicone, Holcombe, Mokhtari, Melcher, Zhang

**1) Update on discussions with Joe Alexander**

Research Compliance – Research compliance issues are increasing in complexity, particularly in light of recent Patriot Act/ Homeland Security legislation. Violation of new law(s) can result in substantial fines and or imprisonment. Ed Lawry has suggested that the research committee represent faculty interests in how the university handles such matters. Apparently OU has hired a half-time lawyer to stay abreast of research compliance issues. Alexander indicated Kay Ellis has recently joined his office for that purpose, but she is not a lawyer. The committee agreed that interpretation of the regulations is demanding and that consultation with a lawyer is needed. Damicone agreed to contact a faculty member with a law degree for advice and/or help with this issue.

Carol Olson from the Office of Research Compliance will make a presentation at the next Research Committee Meeting (30 Sep) on office activities.

Research productivity – Graphs from Alexander and Steve McKeever were shared that portrayed flat federal research expenditures at OSU over the last 10 years compared to the linear increase reported for OU. Not surprisingly, another that showed a decline in faculty numbers for OSU compared to an increase at OU over the same time period accompanied the “McKeever graph”. The committee determined that it would be beneficial to further examine the numbers that made up this summary and what types of grants were included.

State funding for homeland security research –A draft of the proposed expenditures for the \$19 million in state dollars (HB 2598) for homeland security was shared. The proposed use for the monies is to make capital improvements, as prioritized by the research directors of the participating colleges, for biocontainment facilities, laboratory improvements, and equipment. The targeted research will be anti-bioterrorism, food safety, and enhancing first-responders. It was noted that some colleges were not included in proposed expenditures.

Laser center – Administration has decided to disband the laser center as a distinct administrative unit while maintaining its function through the participating colleges (CEAT and CAS). Members of the center did not support the decision and felt that they were not given time to

reorganize and improve center function following the departure of the center director last year. Members of the center argued that the change would reduce multi-disciplinary collaboration and increase competition for research space currently dedicated to the center.

## **2) Old business**

Copyright policy – The policy has not yet been returned from legal council. Apparently Alexander and Halligan are frustrated by the lack of response from legal council. The committee strongly supported the idea to reconvene the original committee chaired by Rick Bost to make revisions deemed appropriate by faculty. However, Ed Lawry's position is that Halligan needs to respond to FC on the original recommendation.

## **3) New business**

Explore issues/items for upcoming year - After cursory review, the committee felt that many of the issues that limit research productivity at OSU were addressed in "The Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and Sub-Committees on Research Initiatives at Oklahoma State University" released in 2001. It was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee had substantial faculty representation. The committee will be requesting more information on the current status of recommendations made in the report and plans for implementation. The committee decided to review the report more closely to assess our support for the document as a whole, identify priorities among the recommendations, and possibly make recommendations to administration on their implementation. It was noted that the working relationships, if any, between the Ad Hoc Committee formed under former VP for Research Collins, The Research Initiatives Group led by President Halligan, the Office of the VP for Research, and the Research Committee are poorly understood and also should be examined.

Another topic of interest was the feasibility of forming multidisciplinary centers and cost-sharing support among colleges for them. The Recombinant DNA and Protein Core Facility was cited as an example of a college-run facility (DASNR) that serves multiple colleges, but is not cost-shared. Melcher agreed to gather more information for committee review.